

Trinity College Trinity College Digital Repository

Resist Newsletters

Resist Collection

5-5-1969

Resist Newsletter, May 1969

Resist

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter>

Recommended Citation

Resist, "Resist Newsletter, May 1969" (1969). *Resist Newsletters*. 138.
<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter/138>

RESIST

a call to resist illegitimate authority

5 May 1969 - 763 Massachusetts Avenue, #4, Cambridge, Mass. - Newsletter #27

THE WEEK IN PERSPECTIVE

The Week to Confront Campus Militarism (Apr. 21-25) is officially over. Campus militarism-- ROTC, research in chemical-biological warfare, contracts for developing methods of quelling riots and defusing demonstrations, secret contracts, university complicity in the Selective Slavery System, and scholarly rationalizations of American militarism--these and other manifestations continue to exist despite the "confrontations" that have taken place. What can we honestly and realistically say has been achieved by this effort?

We don't really know. It is estimated that 35 to 50 campuses have had some kind of action against militarism during the last month; others are just reaching the point of action. There may have been more, but we got very few reports, presumably because the organizers were busy organizing.

Our evaluation of the Week depends heavily on our understanding of the few episodes that we have watched relatively closely. It is clear, for example, that college administrators and the military are now on the defensive about ROTC; it also seems clear the ROTC programs will continue to supply the bulk of junior officers.

One major issue has at least been exposed: Administrators, researchers, teachers and students have been forced by a vocal minority in their midst to recognize that the university is not "neutral" in the affairs of government--it is heavily engaged in the preservation of the status quo. Forcing the college community to confront this reality is itself a major accomplishment. That was a key aim of the Week, as was the development of a new body of literature analyzing campus militarism. This too has been started.

Most of the reports on the Week received at Resist came from people we already knew. Faculty members generated some of the more carefully planned confrontations. But in many campuses it appears that students, especially SDS chapters, had to go it alone with only negligible support from one or two radical teachers.

For example, SDS had planned a spring offensive against ROTC. Resist and NUC sponsored the Week with the hope that the two offensives would reinforce each other.

Now, however, as we evaluate the Week, we must acknowledge that much of the action (perhaps most of it) would have occurred without national sponsorship from Resist and NUC.

Resist's and NUC's sponsorship of the Week has been one (probably small) contribution to the campus struggle. The open conflicts on

THE FREE NEWS MEDIA IN AMERICA

"Freedom of opinion" in America plays an enormous role in the evaluation of American aggressiveness. On one side, many of us place some hope, or our only hope, in it. On the other, it is used as an alibi by right wingers. Which one of us has not been told during some demonstration by a rabid bystander: "Do you think you could act like that in Hanoi (or Moscow)?"

Now, for the first time in American history, many, if not a majority of the people, are aware of the open and hidden pressures that steer the "free" press, radio, and television. Here is one day's harvest of tilted news and use of words, NOT a result of pressures but rather the unconscious product of decades of propaganda this country has been practicing on itself. Only a few news broadcasts of Fri., April 18, 1969 are quoted.

Reporting on Vietnam, all but one New York station consistently spoke of the Saigon *Government* and the Hanoi *regime* (if the words have any meaning, they should obviously be used the other way around). One station used the word *regime* for both. For all, not surprisingly, "South Vietnam" as an abstract meant Van Thieu and his men, the "South Vietnamese people" those who follow Saigon. Not one reporter showed any awareness that he made a political statement by his usage of words. Nor did one seem aware of the implications of his statement: "American prestige in Asia had suffered from the lack of retaliation against North Korea." In that sense, "Asia" can only be assumed to mean the governing circles of four or five semi-dictatorships of small nations on the fringe of Asia.

A simple and striking example of the constant, unconscious editorializing by American news services is found in reports from the Middle East: In air battles or air strikes the Egyptians are always in MIGs, and the Israelis simply in planes!

Hans Koningsberger

traditionally serene campuses suggest that "the movement" is spreading and picking up momentum. But real change requires a redistribution of power--on campuses and in the nation generally. It is not clear that this is happening or about to happen. At best, we can say that more people are becoming engaged in the movement. But even this claim will be questionable if the people who became involved, this spring return to life-as-usual, accept their degrees or academic tenure, and integrate themselves into existing power relationships in the professions. If they "drop out" in this manner, they will simply perpetuate the system

Cont'd on page 2

THE SCENE IN SWEDEN

In contrast to their counterparts in Canada, American deserters in Sweden (well over 200) are faced with the problem of adjusting to an alien cultural milieu. In addition to learning a new language, they must find places to live and work, and somehow make a place for themselves in Swedish society (a difficult enough task even in a familiar environment).

POLITICAL VS. "HUMANITARIAN" ASYLUM

The difficulties outlined above are compounded by the fact that American deserters are given asylum for "humanitarian" reasons rather than for political ones. Although "humanitarian" asylum gives the deserters the same rights as any other Swedish immigrant, it means that they have to reapply for resident and work permits every three months. This lends an air of impermanency to a deserter's life because there is always the possibility that the renewals will not come through either because of bureaucratic mix-ups or lack of work, etc. Moreover, because "humanitarian" asylum is a temporary measure (resulting both from Sweden's opposition to the war and its government's desire, as a democratic country, not to embarrass the U.S., also a "democratic" nation), it is difficult to say what will happen to the deserters after the war ends.

ON THE OTHER HAND . . .

Yet real efforts are being made both by the Swedish government and American deserters' groups in Sweden to help deserters acclimate themselves to Sweden. American deserters' groups have started communes, coffee houses, etc., as well as providing creative outlets for the ex-GI's, i.e. film-making and rock and roll groups. Swedish government agencies also provide a number of services to help deserters. Language schools are open to all of them. If a deserter has a work permit and is over 21, he may even be paid a salary while attending schools. Once a deserter has learned Swedish, he is eligible for further education, either through a technical training course or the Swedish version of a junior college. Anyone who is qualified may attend the universities. A camp has been set up by the Labor Market Board specifically designed to help deserters in Sweden. It offers a six week training course in Swedish as well as room and board and spending money. After the language course has been completed, the Board will help toward job placement.

AND THE FUTURE?

What remains then is a rather paradoxical political and personal situation for American deserters in Sweden. If a deserter makes it in Sweden now, what of the future? "Humanitarian" asylum will betray its purpose if what we are left with is 300 or so Swedish speaking ex-GI's in American stockades.

MILWAUKEE FOURTEEN NEWS

The state trial of the Milwaukee Fourteen will not begin on May 5; right now we don't know when it will take place, if ever. However, their federal trial is scheduled to begin on June 9. The Fourteen urge all who can to show their support by coming to Milwaukee June 9-14.

CIVIL LIBERTIES LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, INC.

What is the Fund?

The CLLDF, an independent, nonprofit, non-political organization is currently engaged in a nationwide campaign to raise funds for the legal defense of conscientious resisters and their supporters. Many organizations and individuals are providing volunteer legal counsel, but expenses, legal research, court costs and appeal fees demand a large reservoir of funds to insure the availability of adequate legal defense.

The Activities of CLLDF

CLLDF provides funds for the defense of individual selective service cases. These funds are used for the out-of-pocket expenses of attorneys, for court costs and appeal fees. The Fund also provides monies for affirmative litigation which is related to selective service and military law matters. CLLDF also devotes a substantial sum of money to the organizing of lawyers and counselors. Funds are available for organizing selective service lawyers panels, for lawyers' projects in "trouble spots" and for training institutes for draft counselors. In recent months the Fund has taken an active interest in the field of military law as organizing and dissent within the armed forces have increased. In this area the Fund supports defensive cases on an individual basis, is currently considering a proposal to create a military law resource center, and is funding a training institute for military counselors.

Obtaining aid from CLLDF

The Fund accepts applications from attorneys, defendants and groups planning organizing efforts (such as the building of a selective service lawyers' panel). Application forms are available on request from the CLLDF office. When a defendant completes an application and returns it to us, an attorney's application and a copy of the policy statement is forwarded to his lawyer along with a request for copies of any relevant briefs, motions and memoranda filed in the case. As soon as the case file is complete it is presented at the next meeting of the Board or Executive Committee. Applicants requesting funds for legal organizing projects are requested to submit a detailed proposal plus an estimated budget.

The Fund does not provide monies for bail or fines nor does it have staff attorneys (except when they are hired for special projects).

While the Defense Fund has been primarily associated with the case of the Boston Five, its main purpose has been to raise funds for the many cases which do not receive the publicity and support which was generated by that case. The Fund is constantly seeking to encourage more and more people to make use of its resources. Any questions should be addressed to Gregory Finger at the Fund office, 2 Bow Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138 (617-864-8680).

